

In re Patent Application of:
KELVIN TODD EVANS
Serial No. 10/620,283
Filing Date: 7/15/2003

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow through the body along a longitudinal axis thereof, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein,

wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular member for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner ~~cross-section~~ cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular member passes through the conduit portion and is retained within the effluent retention portion during use of the manifold having the longitudinal axis generally horizontal;

~~at least one~~ a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from a first retention portion of the at least one effluent retention portion, the first transverse port having an axis within a plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis;

~~at least one~~ a second transverse port positioned between the first transverse port and at least one of the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from a second retention portion ~~of the at least one retention portion~~, the second transverse port having an axis within the plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis; and

opposing first and second ribs extending outwardly from an outside surface of the conduit portion of the tubular body, wherein the first and second ribs radially extend from the longitudinal axis and are orthogonal to the plane having the transverse port axes and longitudinal axis therein, and wherein the ribs provide means for attaching to a clamping device when supporting the manifold

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~~therefrom~~ in a desired location and elevation during an installation of the manifold.

2. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

3. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about a longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

4. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one effluent retention portion comprises three effluent retention portions, and wherein two of the three effluent retention portions each have a first transverse port extending therefrom for directing fluid flow into a first transverse direction and the at least one second transverse port extending from the~~ manifold comprises a third effluent retention portion and a third transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

5. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 4, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

6. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise male and female connections respectively, each for connecting to a ~~second~~ manifold having a similar form thereto.

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7. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow therethrough, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein, wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular member for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner ~~cross-section~~ cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular member passes through the conduit portion and is retained within the effluent retention portion during use of the manifold having the longitudinal axis generally horizontal

~~at least one~~ a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from the elongate tubular body in a first transverse direction;

~~at least one~~ a second transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from the elongate tubular body in a second transverse direction; and

at least one rib extending outwardly from an outside surface of the conduit portion of the tubular body orthogonally to a plane having an axis of at least one transverse port and the longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body therein.

8. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

9. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first and second transverse ports extends from the at least one effluent retention portion.

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10. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body along the longitudinal axis.

11. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about the longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

12. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 11, wherein axes of the first and second transverse ports lie within a single plane of and are generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis.

13. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the ~~at least one effluent retention portion comprises three effluent retention portions, and wherein two of the three effluent retention portions each have a first transverse port extending therefrom for directing fluid flow into a first transverse direction and the at least one second transverse port extending from the~~ manifold comprises a third effluent retention portion and a third transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

14. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 13, wherein the ~~second~~ first transverse port is positioned between the ~~two first~~ second and third transverse ports.

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15. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 13, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body along the longitudinal axis.

16. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 15, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

17. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise a male and a female connection respectively, each for connecting to a ~~second~~ manifold having a similar form thereto.

18. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 7, further comprising a septic tank pipe connected to the first transverse port and a drain field pipe connected to the second transverse port for providing fluid flow therebetween.

19. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:
an elongate tubular body having an input conduit portion and an opposing output conduit portion, and an intermediate portion extending therebetween;
wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular body for the intermediate portion is greater than than the inner cross-sectional area of the input and output conduit portions such that fluid entering the elongate tubular members passes through the conduit portion and is retained within the intermediate portion when a longitudinal axis of the tubular member is generally horizontal;
at least one transverse port extending from the intermediate portion; and
the transverse port positioned for permitting at least a portion of the fluid to be retained in the intermediate portion when the longitudinal axis is generally horizontal;

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and

at least one rib outwardly extending from the tubular body at a location removed from the intermediate portion for attaching to a clamping device when supporting the manifold ~~therefrom~~ during an installation thereof.

20. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the longitudinal axis passing through a center of the input and output ports is orthogonal to a transverse axis passing through a center of the at least one transverse port.

21. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body.

22. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 19, wherein the at least one transverse port includes three transverse ports, and wherein a central axis for each of the three transverse ports lies within a plane including the longitudinal axis of the tubular body.

23. (Previously Amended) A manifold according to claim 22, wherein the at least one rib comprises opposing first and second ribs radially extending from the elongate tubular body.

24. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 1, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.

25. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 7, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.

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26. (Currently Amended) A manifold comprising:

an elongate tubular body having a first longitudinal port and an opposing second longitudinal port for providing fluid flow through the body along a longitudinal axis thereof, the elongate tubular body having at least one effluent retention portion and at least one conduit portion formed therein, wherein an inner cross-sectional area of the elongate tubular member for the at least one effluent retention portion is greater than the inner ~~cross-section~~ cross-sectional area for the at least one conduit portion such that fluid entering the elongate tubular member passes through the conduit portion and is retained within the effluent retention portion during use of the manifold having the longitudinal axis generally horizontal;

~~at least one~~ a first transverse port positioned between the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a transverse fluid flow from a first retention portion of the at least one effluent retention portion, the first transverse port having an axis within a plane of and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis; and

~~at least one~~ a second transverse port positioned between the first transverse port and at least one of the first and second longitudinal ports for providing a second transverse fluid flow from a second retention portion of the at least one retention portion, the second transverse port having an axis within the plane of the and generally orthogonal to the longitudinal axis.

27. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, further comprising opposing first and second ribs extending outwardly from an outside surface of the conduit portion of the tubular body, wherein the first and second ribs radially extend from the longitudinal axis and are orthogonal to the plane having the transverse port axes and longitudinal axis therein, and wherein the ribs provide means for clamping to a device when supporting the manifold ~~therefrom~~ during an installation of the manifold.

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28. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein each of the ports is closed, and wherein a cut is made in the manifold for opening a selected one of the ports for permitting fluid flow therethrough.

29. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports are centered about a longitudinal axis of the elongate tubular body.

30. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the ~~at least one effluent retention portion comprises three effluent retention portions, and wherein two of the three effluent retention portions each have a first transverse port extending therefrom for directing fluid flow into a first transverse direction and the at least one second transverse port extending from the~~ manifold comprises a third effluent retention portion and a third transverse port, and wherein the first transverse port extends from the first effluent retention portion for directing fluid flow in a first transverse direction, and the second and third transverse ports respectively extend from the second and third effluent retention portions for directing flow into a second transverse direction, which second transverse direction radially opposes the first transverse direction.

31. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 30, wherein a top plan view of the manifold comprises a mirror image of a bottom plan view of the manifold.

32. (Currently Amended) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the first and second longitudinal ports comprise male and female connections respectively, each for connecting to a ~~second~~ manifold having a similar form thereto.

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33. (Previously Presented) A manifold according to claim 26, wherein the inner cross-sectional areas are circular.